



News Release

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

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USGS Plans Community Activities for National Water Monitoring Day, October 18, 2002

The USGS Water Resources office in Middleton, Wisconsin, along with other federal, state, and local agencies is sponsoring activities at three sites throughout the state to celebrate National Water Monitoring Day, October 18, 2002. [Background information on National Water Monitoring Day below.] Each event will include water-sampling demonstrations, and staff will be on hand to discuss the importance of water monitoring, including flow, temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity. Kits will be available for interested individuals to take their own samples, and information will be available for entering the data collected into a national online database. Students of all ages, representatives of state and local governments, and the general public are invited to all events. Handouts and publications on many water-related topics will be available for attendees.

Arcadia, Wisconsin

Trempealeau River at the Highway 95 bridge

Main St., downtown Arcadia

10:00 am – 2:30 pm

Contact: Herb Garn, hsgarn@usgs.gov, 608-821-3828

Green Bay, Wisconsin

Duck Creek at Pamperin Park

2477 Shawano Ave.

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Contact: Kevin Richards, krichard@usgs.gov, 608-821-3861

Madison, Wisconsin

Vilas Beach at Vilas Park

1339 Vilas Park Drive

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Contact: Rob Waschbusch, rjwaschb@usgs.gov, 608-821-3868

Background information:

Celebrate National Water Monitoring Day with USGS

On October 18, thirty years will have passed since the passage of the Clean Water Act—a milestone to reflect and celebrate our advancements toward cleaner water, and to move forward with even more vigor and partnerships. In recognition of this anniversary, America's Clean Water Foundation, in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and a multitude of other governmental agencies and environmental groups, have started an annual tradition—National Water Monitoring Day.

USGS will be monitoring streams across the nation, as well as participating in water festivals, educational expos, and public meetings with students, educators, volunteer monitors, local watershed groups, environmental organizations, industry, and federal, state, Tribal and local governments. Some highlights include an educational river cruise on the Mississippi River, streamgauging at Lake Tahoe, scuba diving and manatee tracking in Florida, and insect collections in national parks and wildlife refuges.

To learn more and get involved in these and other USGS National Water Monitoring Day activities, visit http://water.usgs.gov/monitoring_day/activities.html.

“One of the lessons learned from the past 30 years is that partnerships between the public and government are critical in protecting water resources, and that grassroots participation is key in caring for the natural resources that benefit us locally as well as hundreds of miles downstream,” said Chip Groat, USGS's Director. “What each of us does on a daily basis affects water quality. All citizens are part of the solution for clean water.”

Informed citizens of a watershed often are in the best position to identify priority water issues and to understand the social and economic context in which those issues are addressed. This is why continued awareness and education of water issues is of utmost importance—not only to our students but also to all of us who depend on water for drinking, recreation, irrigation of crops and lawns, industry, and power. National Water Monitoring Day is intended to increase awareness and promote continued education of these issues and needs.

USGS plans to conduct local testing and educational demonstrations at more than 50 sites across the nation. While comprehensive monitoring goes on all year, never before has such an event been scheduled to occur on one day. We welcome watershed groups, students, educators, policymakers, and other interested partners to participate.

National Water Monitoring Day is only one of several events planned by the America's Clean Water Foundation to celebrate the 30th anniversary of “Year of Clean Water.” Visit

the Year of Clean Water website (<http://www.yearofcleanwater.org>) to learn more about other Year of Clean Water activities.

A major mission of USGS is to provide science and expertise for increased understanding of water issues and good decisions that lead to stronger and healthier communities. The agency has monitored the quality and flow of our nation's streams since its inception in 1879. Currently, the agency monitors continuous stream flow at more than 7,000 sites across the Nation. The large USGS database on water-quality conditions and other information is publicly available and can be readily accessed at <http://water.usgs.gov/nwis>.

For more information, contact Michelle Greenwood, USGS Middleton Office, (608) 821-3812 (mmgreenw@usgs.gov).